



# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

NOVEMBER 2017 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 11

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## Reversing mass incarceration and suicide by reducing violence and pain



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

As many people struggle to deal with recent horrific violent events, it helps to know that there are some known interventions to prevent more of the same. Knowing that some are in use and that we have the power to implement others helps even more.

We are seeing an epidemic of disaffection – people who have lost hope for meaning in their lives. Many have suffered from violence in their lives. Some are poor and have no special skills or talent. They see themselves losing ground and feel helpless to reverse the trend.

### GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Judge Karen Valvo explained the functioning and advantages of Mental Health Courts at the NAMI Pathways to Recovery conference on October 14, 2017.

Others have attained the American dream and found no satisfaction in it.

Many are depressed and in pain, haunted by thoughts like "My life does not matter, my voice does not matter. Life is meaningless. Nobody cares so they don't deserve to live, either."

Unrealistic expectations are inflamed by media coverage and societal fixation on the rich, famous and infamous. Feelings of impotence are further reinforced by the deafening influence of big money on government policies, promising increased misery and wealth inequality.

Not having won the lottery, Joe Aver-

age will never be rich but he can take himself out in a dramatic fashion and become infamous.

Danielle Sered, the Executive Director of Common Justice who spoke at a restorative justice presentation on October 14, has dedicated her life to increasing public safety. She experienced violent crime herself, made poor adolescent choices that could have landed her in jail, published poems and essays on her way to becoming a Rhodes Scholar and now works to develop and implement policies for a safer world.

The restorative justice process demands accountability from perpetrators. They must acknowledge their actions and their impacts, show remorse and a desire and plan to reform. Accountability is the road to transformation.

To increase the safety of our community, we need to address the structural

see INCARCERATION, page 8

### HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

VAHREN  
November 11-19, 2017  
Local events throughout November

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FEATURING • Comedy Show • Poetry Readings • Discussion Panels • Documentaries • Trivia Night • Storytelling • Postcard Activism Party



\* Visit [whalliance.org/upcoming](http://whalliance.org/upcoming) for more details

### EVENTS

11/01 @ 7PM  
POETRY READING  
Groundcover vendors will be reading their poems and short essays at Bookbound in Ypsilanti

11/02 @ 8PM  
COMEDY FOR A CAUSE  
Delonis Center fundraiser at the Ann Arbor Comedy Club. Visit: [annarborshelter.org/events](http://annarborshelter.org/events) for tickets and more information

11/03 @ 7PM  
STUDENT HOMELESSNESS PANEL  
Student discussion panel on homelessness @ EMU at Cultivate Coffee and Taphouse

11/17 @ 6PM  
DOCUMENTARY: THE HOME STRETCH  
Screening and discussion of documentary about homeless teens in Chicago. EMU Student Center Room 330

11/17 @ 7PM  
STORYTELLING  
Common Cup Coffee House near the U-M campus will host a storytelling event

11/18 @ 11AM  
FOOD 4 THOUGHT BRUNCH  
Brunch and conversation – "Are all community members safe and stable?" \*

11/29 @ 7PM  
POSTCARD PARTY  
Postcard Party asking state representatives to legislation to facilitate more affordable housing, 7 p.m., Cultivate Coffee and Taphouse

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The United States is caught in a spiral of increasing incarceration, inequity and violence. Incarceration drives exposure to violence, shame and inequity (as households lose breadwinners and the records of released prisoners hamper their future efforts to secure employment and housing). Shame, exposure to violence and inequity then drive violence (as frustration and desperation build). Violence leads to more incarceration. Furthermore, prison exacerbates and often even leads to mental illness.

The system is so broken that half of people attacked do not even call the police. They expect it will just bring more misery to their family and neighborhood. Of the cases reported to the police, fewer than half reach a grand jury. When those victims are asked if they want to go through the normal court process of an adversarial trial or instead pursue restorative justice, about 90 percent choose restorative justice. They do so because they understand that it is the practical choice to increase safety.

On the same Saturday morning when November Light first filled my home this year, I stumbled on a poem, "What Else" by Carolyn Locke. In it she writes:

*Still, on this morning, the hollowness/of the season startles, filling/the rooms of*

## November Light



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell  
Groundcover Contributor

Dwelling in the northern hemisphere, I have an undeniably favorite light that occurs each year. I call it November Light, although some years it first shows up in the waning days of October. It comes from a place low in the sky. It streams through the openness that wasn't there a few weeks back when the trees still had all their summer greenery. November Light is golden in hue, a rich, lingering color.

On the same Saturday morning when November Light first filled my home this year, I stumbled on a poem, "What Else" by Carolyn Locke. In it she writes:

*Still, on this morning, the hollowness/of the season startles, filling/the rooms of*

## LOOKING WITHIN

*your house, filling the world/with impossible light, improbable hope.*

Locke's words described the scene in which I found myself that morning.

I have a picture that illustrates this poet's hollowness and light. I took this photograph late last October when I was visiting friends in the mountains of North Carolina. It sits in my bedroom where I see it every day. The picture preserves a scene in the woods from an early Sunday morning hike. Most of the trees are tall and straight with gray trunks. One trunk is splashed with November Light and a few shadows high up, cast from neighboring branches that still sport their leaves. The vertical gray of the picture is broken up by a few delicate branches of orange and yellow. The solid tree trunks punctuate a space that will grow more open and light-filled by the day as the denseness of the forest diminishes. The hollowness

For me there has always been potential gift in the golden light of November. I know my approach to the season doesn't hold true for everyone. I offer it as a possibility for you to consider. Whether it is or isn't a fit, may you find all the necessary comfort, support and resources that coming days, weeks and months will require.

lives. Palmer makes me wonder about the potential invitation of the hollowness season.

Could it be for us a time to draw a good, deep breath? Is there opportunity in it to ask about the excesses that cram our lives? What might arrive at the thresholds of our hearts if there were more surrounding openness? How might we navigate our lives differently if the available space in which we make choices was wider, with less of it previously claimed? How necessary to our health and wellbeing is leanness as well as fullness?

For me there has always been potential gift in the golden light of November. I know my approach to the season doesn't hold true for everyone. I offer it as a possibility for you to consider. Whether it is or isn't a fit, may you find all the necessary comfort, support and resources that coming days, weeks and months will require.

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featuring poetry from GROUNDCOVER vendors

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**POEMS FOR CHANGE**

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307 N. River St., YPSILANTI

**BOOKBOUND**  
presents  
**POEMS FOR CHANGE**

Wednesday, November 9 at 7PM  
BOOKBOUND  
1729 Plymouth Rd, ANN ARBOR

## Extended warranties – buyer beware!

by Martin Stolzenberg  
Groundcover Contributor

Home warranty salespeople promise, "If anything goes wrong in your house that isn't covered by a manufacturer warranty, we will fix it." There is an annual fee of around \$350 and a service fee of around \$50 every time they come. It usually covers air conditioning units, kitchen appliances and plumbing issues.

It sounds good, but according to the blog *ptmoney.com*, "Home warranty companies have led the list of most-complained-about companies on *Angie's List* for several years now." *Consumer Reports*, the nation's most respected source of product reviews and buying advice, does not mince words about extended warranties. It calls them "a bad idea and money down the drain." The website *Consumerist* agrees, calling extended warranties "useless, and usually a bad deal."

Extended auto warranties, too, don't always stand up to scrutiny. A *Consumer Reports* survey found that, "of those who purchased extended auto warranties, a staggering 55 percent never used them. Those who did spent a median of \$375 more overall, compared with those who paid out of pocket for repairs."

People are sometimes exposed to extended service and home warranties when they are buying a house. The seller throws in an

extended warranty policy as part of the deal. The agent probably gets a commission from the warranty company to push these on the seller. The buyer isn't about to complain about having this bit of reassurance thrown in for free. When there is a complaint, the warranty company usually turns it over to a local contractor they have a deal with. They probably get the work done on a tight budget, so the contractor is not about to knock himself out for the complainant. Not a happy situation for the buyer.

Then there are auto warranties. Of these, the "tire tread" warranty can be considered a scam. Assume you buy a tire with a 60,000-mile warranty and the tread goes after 45,000 miles. They are not going to replace the tire, or give you the money for a new tire. No, they are only going to give you the cost for

15,000 miles or 25 percent of what you paid – the amount that your tire failed to fulfill.

Be aware of caveats in the contract:

- *Must provide the original receipt with car's odometer reading at the time of purchase and whatever warranty papers came with the tire.*
- *Must provide proof of required tire rotation during the life of the tire.*
- *Must show even wear across the tread.* If tire was misaligned or under- or over-inflated so the wear isn't even, they won't pay.
- All this must happen during the specified time frame, usually four or five years.

Another commonly purchased warranty is for cell phones. According to

the website *whistleout.com*, though, cell phone insurance isn't always cost-effective: "Realistically, it may just be cheaper and easier overall to buy a second-hand cell phone with the money you didn't spend on insurance, rather than fork out monthly and get a used phone anyway if something goes wrong. Take the money you would be adding to your phone bill each month and put it aside in a separate bank account in case of cell phone emergency."

It pays to read the extended warranty fine print and do the math to determine what the chances are that it will pay off. For example, chances are greater that the buyer is going to need more heavy-duty repairs when buying a home that is 30 years old and a "fixer-upper" than a new home. Accordingly, the new

see **WARRANTIES**, page 10



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### Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2011 and © 2017



## Celebrate veterans and fill your heart with *Stories of Service* – Nov. 8 at Hill Auditorium

by Lawrence R. Dolph  
Groundcover Contributor

*Stories of Service* is free for all and will be the area's third annual opportunity to hear stories by veterans and songs that honor them. This event also aims to raise awareness about Fisher House Michigan, a hospitality house for the families of vets receiving medical treatment at the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital. Ground-breaking for the 16-family-suite Fisher House Michigan at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System is planned for spring of 2019. *Stories* is a compelling evening and a perfect way to show appreciation for veterans.

August ("Gus") Bolino, a WWII Veteran, served in the 388th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force flying out of Knettishall, England in 1944. As a navigator, he flew 30 missions on a B-17 "Wolf Wagon II" and earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for guiding the squadron through heavy flack to the target after its leader was blown out of the sky. Bolino, who is finishing his 19th book at age 94, will talk about German Jewish scientists who changed the course of history after they were granted asylum in the United States to escape Hitler.

*Stories of Service* will take place at Hill Auditorium from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8, and will be a night to remember. \$1.3 million has been raised towards the \$5 million capital campaign goal. Generous community partners have offered a quarter million dollar Patriot Pledge match challenge. To donate or for more information about *Stories of Service*, or to reserve your free tickets, visit [storiesofservice.org](http://storiesofservice.org). For more information about Fisher House Michigan, visit [fisherhousemichigan.org](http://fisherhousemichigan.org).

"If I can persuade Art to sing 'Long, Long Trail A-Winding,' our audience will feel the impact of a life lived in service," said event director Maija Garcia. "And there won't be a dry eye in the house."

"I never sing before any audience of less than 2,000," replied Art. "We've got a retired Special Forces speaker who was prepared to stop a Soviet Invasion with what he had in his suitcase [so the seats should be full]. If you fill the seats, I'll sing."

Along with the vets and musical acts profiled in the October issue of *Groundcover*, attendees will have the opportunity to listen to senior Army aviator Walter G. S. Cummings, who was first assigned as a MedEvac pilot with the 377th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) at Camp Humphreys, Korea. Now a lieutenant colonel, Cummings was awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge, a Bronze Star, the NATO Medal, the German Proficiency Badge and the Order of Saint Michael, among others. Today, LTC Cummings serves as a Professor of Military Science for the Wolverine Battalion at the University of Michigan.

Abbas Mousa was an Iraqi translator for the U.S. Army, now a U.S. citizen and government economist. Mousa is also a regular storyteller with The Moth StorySLAMs in D.C., and will present at *Stories of Service*.



## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

### Michigan Is My Home works for those without

by Hussain Ali and Payton Watt  
U-M Student Contributors

Ann Arbor is ranked as the 8th most economically segregated city in the nation. University of Michigan (U-M) public health student Hussain Ali wondered how a wealthy city full of resources, innovation, opportunities, and ranked as the most educated city in America (Forbes) could concurrently experience drastic systemic economic division.

During the first few weeks of his freshman year, Ali noticed how apparent yet overlooked chronic homelessness was in Ann Arbor. Ali searched on the university's student-org listserv and was surprised to not find any organizations that focused on addressing poverty or homelessness on campus. So he took initiative and in the fall of 2016 started his own organization: Michigan Is My Home (MIMH).

With the help of U-M biology student Payton Watt, MIMH transformed into a student-run nonprofit that now extends beyond the reach of traditional philanthropy and social agency. MIMH empowers individuals and families experiencing homelessness through packaging programs, social advocacy and community engagement.



MIMH prepared bags of personal items and delivered them to Mercy House, represented in the photo by Peggy Lynch, Will Shakespeare and Mondo (left to right in the back row). MIMH members pictured are: (front row) Fahmida, Nina, Maria, Andrew; (back row) Nolan, Omar and Eris. Founders Payton and Hussain are pictured on the front cover.

In the spring of 2017, MIMH delivered 150 care packages dubbed "MPower bags" to housing-insecure people at Mercy House, a local hospitality house owned by Peggy Lynch. Twice a year, MIMH holds their MPower event during which members assemble 100-200 care packages that they then distribute at a local shelter. This fall their packages will be delivered to Delonis Shelter residents.

### Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149  
Bethlehem-ucc.org [facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2)

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office

#### NOVEMBER 2017 EVENTS:

- November 1 Hops & Hallelujahs, 6:00 p.m. at Conor O'Neills
- Nov. 2, 16, 30 Bethlehem Prayer Circle, 11:30 a.m. in the lounge
- November 4 Football Parking fundraiser at Bethlehem
- November 5 Totenfest Memorial Service, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
- November 9 German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 – 12, \$1 or \$10 dozen  
(Pre-order only – call 734-665-6149)
- November 12 Veteran's Recognition Potluck, 11:30 a.m.
- November 12 Free Violin Recital at the church, 3:00 p.m.  
Kristine Clair Uchi Galano, Violin prodigy
- November 17 German Pretzel Sales, 11-2, \$1 or \$10 dozen  
(Pre-order by November 14 - call 734-665-6149)
- November 19 Produce collection at worship services for Food Gatherers
- November 23-24 Church office closed – Happy Thanksgiving
- November 25 Football Parking fundraiser at Bethlehem



Sunday Worship Times  
8:30 a.m. Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Sunday school  
Coffee Connection follows each service

## Poverty Here?

Yes.

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builds a safety-net of support  
for all those who need it.

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to help us bring real results to  
real problems in our community.

United Way  
of Washtenaw County



United We Fight! United We Win!

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

### U-M student organization MIMH tackles local poverty and homelessness

continued from page 6

Following an MPower distribution, MIMH members make a point to get feedback from individuals and families who attended the event to improve the care packages and distributions. By communicating with individuals receiving the care packages, MIMH can constantly enhance their program, addressing the evolving needs of those who face homelessness.

"MIMH members truly care about who they are trying to help. When you're in a difficult situation, having someone

support you and listen to you can make all the difference.

"I have started my own online t-shirt business – seeing Payton wear my shirt made my day today and I've never been more excited!" exclaimed Lit Kurtz, a vendor for Groundcover News.

Amanda Carlisle, Executive Director of Washtenaw Housing Alliance, stated, "I'm impressed with the work Michigan Is My Home has accomplished and the positive impact they continue to make in our community."

MIMH's large focus on community partnerships led them to implement the Transition Program this past summer. They learned that, due to limited storage on the streets and in the shelters, families often do not have the supplies they need when they do get a place. Partnering with Alpha House, a shelter in Ann Arbor that helps families experiencing homelessness, MIMH delivers monthly bins to assist families transitioning from shelters to their own home.

Most of these families do not have household items such as pots and pans, towels, linens, microwaves, brooms and other household necessities. MIMH makes the most out of their bins by packing essential household items in large laundry baskets and including items that are specific to each family. Some of the past Transition bins included Halloween costumes, lunchboxes and backpacks for the children.

## Shop, Donate, Join

The Kiwanis Thrift Sale of Ann Arbor has served more than 40,000 local youth throughout the years.

For more information call 734-665-0450 or visit [www.a2kiwanis.org](http://www.a2kiwanis.org).

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### THE BRASS TACKS ENSEMBLE

# MEASURE FOR MEASURE

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



November 3 – 19, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.  
Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at the CCC  
1600 Pauline Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI  
Tickets \$15 for general admission  
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Reservations: [www.btensemble.org](http://www.btensemble.org) or (734) 926-5376

## Boober tours: scaling up

by Kevin Spangler  
Groundcover Vendor #307

Things are going great with Boober – the crew keeps on getting better. I have figured out that the only way to affect people around you in a positive way is to dig deep within yourself and to figure out what is wrong and to correct it. I like to call it raising your vibration. This technique is part of my plan for raising the vibration of the universe. This is the only way to transform the future – any other way is just a Band-Aid. The more you raise your vibration the more you

help the people around you.

Easy ways to raise your vibration are: juice as many green leafy vegetables as possible, get lots of oxygen into your body and meditate as much as you can. Add as much positivity into your life as possible. If you find yourself in a negative mindset, you need to figure out how to get back into a positive mindset. For more information on raising your vibration, consider making a \$10 donation for this fall's Groundcover News special edition, the *Vendor Entrepreneurship Anthology*. It has a wealth of

## Reversing mass incarceration and suicide

continued from page 2

factors that lead to crime – poverty, exposure to violence and inequities such as redlining (keeping minorities from buying houses by denying them loans or insurance). And we need alternatives to incarceration.

The Michigan Supreme Court recognized the revolving door syndrome that results when underlying needs go unmet, so starting in 2009, they experimented with sobriety courts and mental health courts. Significant reductions in recidivism led to more of these courts across the state and additional specialty courts for populations such as veterans.

There are now 33 mental health courts in Michigan. Judge Karen Quinlan Valvo has presided over the Washtenaw County Mental Health Court for the past two years. Her prior experience as a *pro bono* attorney for Avalon Housing clients helped her develop discernment, compassion and problem-solving tools.

As the keynote speaker at the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Pathways to Recovery conference, Valvo addressed the topic of "Therapeutic Jurisprudence – Integrating Treatment with the Justice System."

The mental health court approach is fiscally sound, at an average cost of \$6,700 per year as compared to \$35,000 per

information on the subject.

Some of the Boober developments that excite me are:

- Boober's very first driver still works for us today. He has stepped up and is doing a lot for the company fixing and maintaining the pedicabs, so I can spend some of my energy on other aspects of the business.
- Nick from Nick of Time Textbooks has donated his time to make a training manual and a Facebook group that directs our drivers to a group of

videos that streamlines the training process. This is the start to making Boober scalable to move to other cities.

• Boober has also been working with local web developer Christopher Collins ([christopher-collins.com](http://christopher-collins.com)) on building the best pedicab website in the world. He is a genius when it comes to building websites.

Many other exciting things are happening in the future for Boober that I can't wait to share. Boober Tours – the only way!

year to house a person in the Washtenaw County Jail for a year. But, it is the 50-percent reduction in recidivism and the vastly improved quality of life for those who complete their individualized treatment plans (in lieu of probation) that please Judge Valvo the most.

The 92-percent compliance rate for those prescribed psychotropic drugs clearly improves public safety. Individual and public well-being benefit from the 99 percent of participants who report improved mental health resulting from their treatment plan. Services are provided by public and non-profit agencies that continue their relationships with court clients even after the formal two-year treatment plan has been completed.

Diversion programs such as mental health, street outreach, sobriety and restorative justice courts address the underlying problems that lead people to break the law. Mental health and drug treatment programs in the jails are also useful, though they lack the integrated services to address the full range of problems that afflict many incarcerated people. These programs and Community Mental Health (whose psychiatrist provides evaluations for mental health court clients) play an important role in improving the mental health in our community. We all have an opportunity to vote in support of these programs by approving the Mental Health millage on November 7 (see below).

## Mental health and public safety millage on Nov. 7 ballot

by Holly Kilbourn  
Groundcover Social Work Intern

Voters of Washtenaw County can decide on funding for mental health and public safety on Nov. 7, 2017 by voting for or against the **Washtenaw County Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage**.

Andy LaBarre, Washtenaw County Commissioner representing District 7, said, "The only thing more complex than the millage is the complex challenges it addresses."

The funds will be allocated to Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (38 percent), Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (38 percent) and jurisdictions within Washtenaw County that maintain a police department (24 percent). Millage fund revenue estimates are \$15,433,608 within the first year.

The eight-year millage would increase the taxes on taxable property in

of the millage.

Ann Arbor will split its share: 40 percent to affordable housing, 40 percent to climate initiatives and 20 percent to pedestrian safety.

Creekmore said, "The criminal justice system services more than Community Mental Health in terms of mental health and so there is extreme overlap."

Washtenaw County Sheriff Clayton has estimated that 50 percent of the people in our jail suffer from mental illness. This overlap is reason "to be more proactive in citizen engagement and not jail people for a mental health problem," LaBarre said.

LaBarre added, "[The millage] can't respond to every aspect of mental health because that changes, and the millage is a fine example of something that is imperfect and practical as opposed to something perfect [but unrealistic]."

NAMI-Washtenaw County encourages individuals to vote for the millage

and can be contacted by phone at (734) 994-6611 for information and personal stories of those the millage would help. This election will use new adaptive voting equipment designed to empower voters with disabilities.

The new equipment has an audio ballot reader and accommodates adaptive devices, making it easier for everyone to vote on Nov. 7.

LaBarre said, "Treat them as human beings and keep them out of a system they don't need to be in, and keep them in a system they need to be in to get support. Efforts will be strengthened if the millage can be passed."

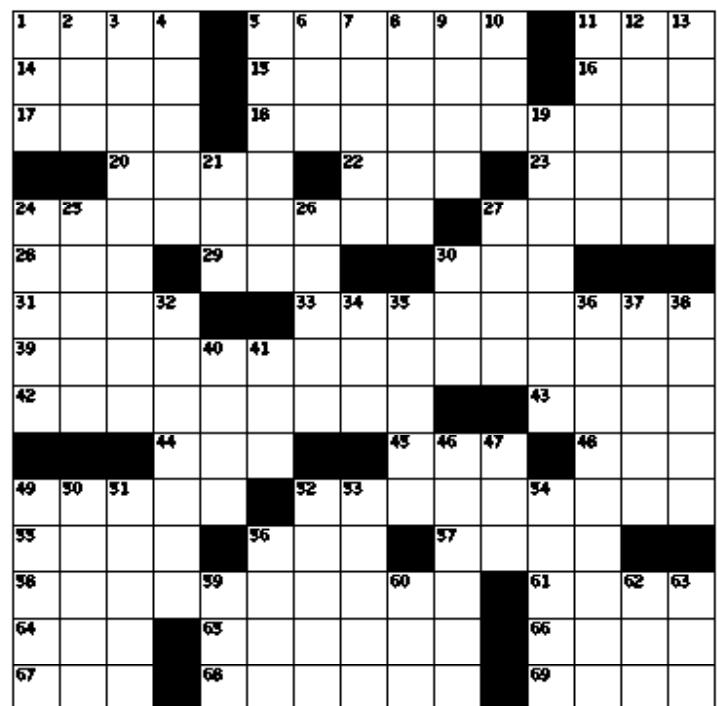
The full text of this and other proposals on your ballot can be found on the Washtenaw County website at [www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk\\_register/elections/2017-elections/Nov-7-2017-proposals](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections/2017-elections/Nov-7-2017-proposals). More about how the money raised by the millage will be used can be found at [www.yesonwashtenawmentalhealth.com](http://www.yesonwashtenawmentalhealth.com).

### Hail to the Chief Peter A. Collins

#### ACROSS

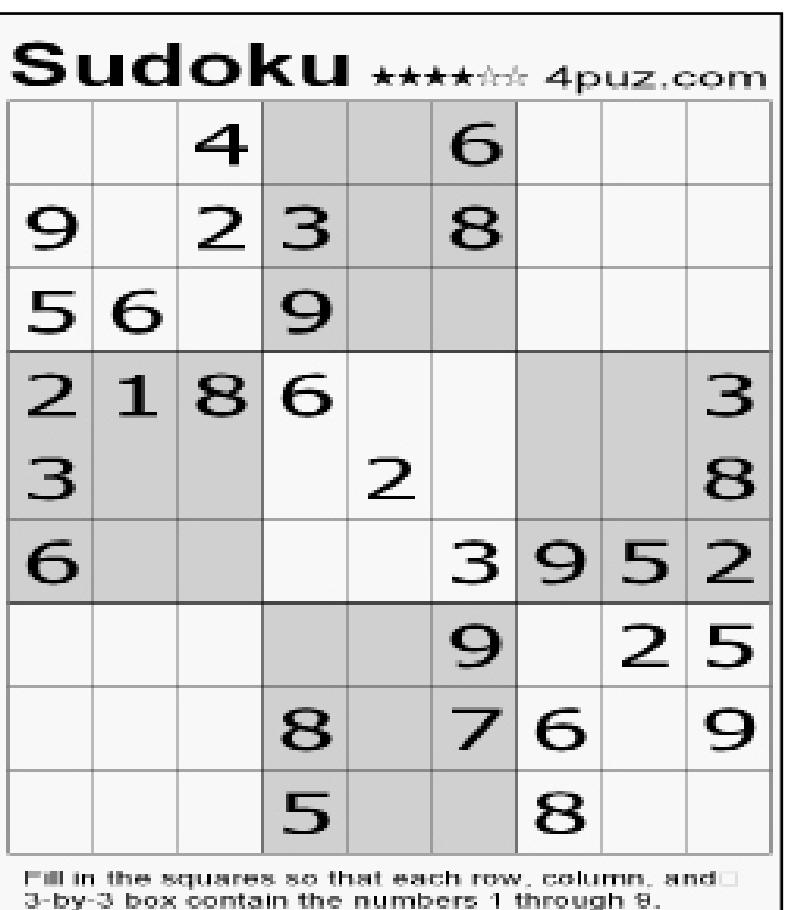
1. Tiny drinks
5. On the bus
11. Fat or house follower
14. Computer menu option
15. 20-20, for instance
16. Part of IPA
17. \_\_\_-Cola
18. Neck projection
20. Make a sweater
22. Teacher's answer sheet
23. "\_\_\_Brockovich" (2000 film)
24. Rural dish associated with "Annie" in a 1968 hit
27. They're found in sofas, often
28. Western tribe member
29. Conquistadors' quest
30. Microwave
31. Hindu prince
33. Spartacus led one
39. Agree to meet (with)
42. Two-continent people
43. Dinty Moore product
44. Came down with
45. Airport worker's arg.
48. She, in Portuguese
49. Traffic light color
52. Flier to remote destinations
55. Indian wrap
56. Kaline and Gore
57. Russian sea
58. Some trick winners
61. Grand Canyon sight
64. "The Lord of the Rings" creature
65. Desperado
66. MRI, for one
67. Bread for a Reuben
68. Obscure matters
69. Bart Simpson's bus driver

21. They're found in sofas, often
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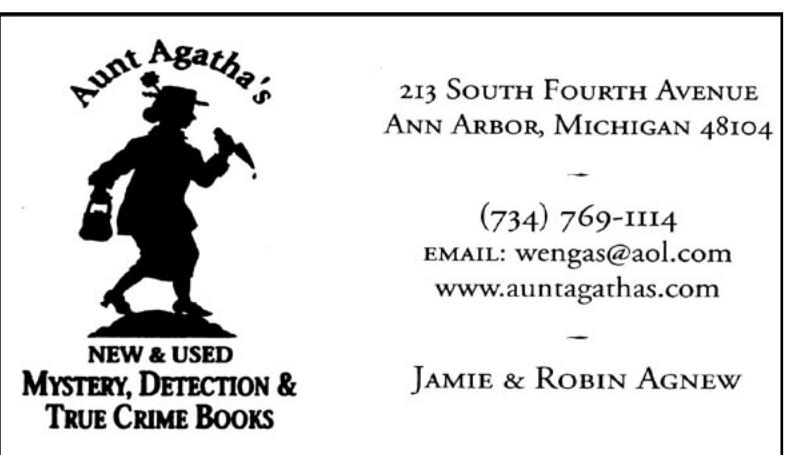


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5. 2009 film with blue aliens
6. Auction offer
7. Japanese metropolis
8. Pointed
9. Optimistic
10. Stuff in some paternity suits
11. Italian resort isle
12. Texas Hold'em declaration
13. Many Justin Bieber fans
19. Populates
21. Prefix with metric or thermal
24. Do away with
25. Port city NW of Sapporo
26. \_\_\_ Done
27. San Fran's state, for short
30. One found in the London Zoo?
32. Disneyland's locale
34. Suffix for Caesar
35. Some museum pieces
36. Brainy individual
37. Kitchen sponge brand
38. Unfamiliar with
40. Former Russian ruler
41. Source of support
46. California's Mount \_\_\_
47. Car ad abbr.
49. Fur trader John Jacob \_\_\_
50. Tie the knot
51. Willis of "Die Hard"
52. Bugs Bunny voice Mel
53. Fed. dietary guideline, in brief
54. "You are not!" comeback
56. Rent-\_\_
59. Bowling org.
60. Hubbub
62. Formed a lap
63. "I'll take that as \_\_\_"



Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.



## GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

**All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:**

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:  
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(734) 707-9210



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## Extended warranties – buyer beware!

continued from page 4

home buyer should think twice about signing up.

Here are some sales pitches the wary buyer should watch out for, according to *Consumerist* of February, 2011. Knowing them will help you disarm any fast-talking warranty salesperson.

- "Having the warranty will give the buyer peace of mind." But how many people have problems with a TV set over a period of 20 years? Major consumer publications report only two to four percent have at least one repair after four years of ownership.
- "It's only pennies a day." This is simply an insult to the buyer's intelligence.

- "Repair costs are high." But in addition to the cost of the warranty, they may charge \$50-60 per visit. Consumers are better off having several contractors compete for the business, on an as-needed basis.

- "They don't make them like they used to." Wrong. Products like cars and televisions are continually being improved and becoming more durable.

- "We cover power surges from day one." How long are you willing to wait for a replacement or repair?
- "The plan begins from date of purchase." So does every other type of warranty. Plus, the manufacturer already covers new purchases at day one and the buyer's credit card will probably provide a warranty, too.

To wrap up, here is what *Oklahoma's Own*, a news program in Oklahoma City, had to say in November, 2014 about extended warranties:

- First, the warranty usually costs more than it's worth, especially on low-end electronics, where it would be cheaper to replace it in a few years than repair it.
- Second, the warranty may be unreliable. Some companies don't use their own repair techs and instead use subcontractors that may or may not be able to fix the issue.
- Third, certain repairs aren't covered. The warranty may not cover what you think it does, so read the fine print.
- Fourth, the warranty underwriter may go out of business, making the

warranty worthless.

- And finally, watch that the extended warranty doesn't overlap the manufacturer's warranty. In that case, you could be paying for an extended warranty concurrently while you're already covers new purchases at day one and the buyer's credit card will probably provide a warranty.

If you really want an extended warranty, consider instead setting aside that money and finding a good local handy-worker. In the long run, this will probably save you grief and money. In the end, it always seems to come down to... *caveat emptor* – let the buyer beware.

## HELP WANTED: Groundcover News Executive Director

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- Proficiency with word processing and spreadsheet programs
- Understanding of basic business practices

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or call **734.544.3008**. Income limits apply.



## Hepatitis A outbreak in SE Michigan – vaccination can prevent infection

by Kayla Steinberg

Washtenaw County Public Health  
Contributor

Since August 2016, approximately 400 cases of hepatitis A have occurred in southeast Michigan – 16 times more than in previous years. Eighty-six percent of people diagnosed with hepatitis A in this outbreak have been hospitalized, and 15 have died.

Washtenaw County has been identified as a part of this outbreak, as several people in the county have been diagnosed with hepatitis A. Other affected areas are: the city of Detroit, and Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Wayne, St. Clair, Ingham, Lapeer, Livingston and Sanilac Counties.

The best way to prevent hepatitis A is to get vaccinated. The vaccine is safe and nearly 100 percent effective after two doses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Ninety-five percent of people are protected after one dose. Protection is considered long-term and starts two to four weeks after vaccination. It is now routinely recommended for children at one year of age. Most adults may not be already vaccinated unless they did so for travel or other risk factors. Washtenaw residents should take steps to protect themselves from hepatitis A.

Frequent hand-washing with soap and warm water after using the bathroom

and before handling food, as well as appropriately cooking foods, can also help prevent the spread of hepatitis A.

### Who should get vaccinated against hepatitis A?

The ongoing hepatitis A outbreak presents a significant public health risk to vulnerable community members in southeast Michigan. Over half of the cases have a history of substance abuse, 28 percent are co-infected with hepatitis C, 15 percent are homeless or in transient housing situations, and six percent have a history of recent incarceration.

The following people should get vaccinated against hepatitis A:

- People who are homeless or in transient living situations.
- People who are incarcerated.
- People who use injection and non-injection illegal drugs.
- People who work with the populations listed above.
- People who have close contact, care for, or live with someone who has hepatitis A.
- People who have sexual activities with someone who has hepatitis A.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Travelers to countries with high or medium rates of hepatitis A.
- People with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C.

- People with clotting factor disorders.
- Anybody who is concerned about potential exposure and wants to be immune.

### Where to get vaccinated

If you have health care coverage, the hepatitis A vaccine is likely available to you free from your health care provider or pharmacy. Washtenaw County Public Health offers the vaccine by appointment at 555 Towner St., Ypsilanti. For people with Medicaid, the hepatitis A vaccine is free. For those without insurance or who may be at risk of infection, it is available for \$20 per vaccine. Call (734) 544-6700 with questions or to schedule, or if you cannot afford the \$20 fee. **No one will be turned away because of inability to pay.**

Washtenaw County Public Health also often has free hepatitis A vaccination clinics at the Delonis Center. Watch for postings at Delonis for future dates.

### About hepatitis A

Hepatitis A can cause damage to the liver and other health problems. Symptoms of hepatitis A include jaundice (yellowing of the skin), fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine and light-colored stools.

While no common source of the outbreak has been identified, transmission does appear to be person-to-person through drug use, sexual activity, and close

contact among household members. The hepatitis A virus is spread through the fecal-oral route. It can be transmitted through contaminated food or water. It is not spread through coughs or sneezes. Individuals with hepatitis A are infectious for two weeks prior to symptom onset.

Learn more about the ongoing outbreak at [www.mi.gov/hepatitisoutbreak](http://www.mi.gov/hepatitisoutbreak). Washtenaw County Public Health has a hepatitis A factsheet and immunization information at [publichealth.ewashtenaw.org](http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org). More detailed information about hepatitis A is available through the CDC at [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis).

1	8	4	2	5	6	3	9	7
9	7	2	3	4	8	5	1	6
5	6	3	9	7	1	2	8	4
2	1	8	6	9	5	4	7	3
3	5	9	7	2	4	1	6	8
6	4	7	1	8	3	9	5	2
8	3	1	4	6	9	7	2	5
4	2	5	8	1	7	6	3	9
7	9	6	5	3	2	8	4	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	D	I	T	V	I	S	O	N	A	L	E	
C	O	C	A	A	D	A	M	S	A	P	P	
K	N	I	T	K	E	Y	E	R	I	N		
P	O	L	K	S	A	L	A	D	C	O	I	
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R	A	J	R	E	B	E	L	L				
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R	Y	E	A	R	C	A	N	A	O	T	T	

## Making most of jail time: update



by Tabitha L.  
Groundcover  
Vendor #360

Hello Groundcover Readers:

My name is Tabitha L., Vendor #360. As you all have read in last month's issue, I am in the Washtenaw County

I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and I hope everyone eats good and enjoys their day, and, hopefully, the Lions will win the Thanksgiving Day game.

I will be back selling our amazing Groundcover newspaper very soon!

Jail, and I'm happy to say that being in here has helped me grow a lot. This will make it in our November issue, so by that time, I will have only a little over two months left to do in here.

While no common source of the outbreak has been identified, transmission does appear to be person-to-person through drug use, sexual activity, and close

## GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES PACKAGE PRICING

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	3.5 X 2
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	2.5 X 6.5 or 5 X 3.25
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 X 5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 10 X 6.5
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off

Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off

Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off

Additional 20% off ads with coupons

## Chile-cheese chowder

by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

### Ingredients:

1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 cup chopped carrots  
3/4 cup chopped, seeded poblano chiles (about two large)  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon minced, seeded jalapeno pepper  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
32 ounces vegetable broth  
5 to 6 cups diced and peeled baking potatoes

1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
2 1/2 cups low-fat milk  
3/4 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
1/2 cup sharp cheddar cheese (can use reduced-fat)  
2/3 cup sliced green onion

### Directions:

Heat oil in large saucepan or pot. Sauté next five ingredients until lightly browned (about 10 minutes). Stir in the broth and then add potato and salt. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes (until potatoes are tender, not mushy).



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Combine flour and milk in bowl, stirring with a whisk. Add to pot. Cook over medium heat until thick, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and add cheeses. Stir until cheese melts. Ladle

into soup bowls and top with green onions.

*Makes 8 to 10 servings.*

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